

CLAIMS:

1. A method for a first communication device (B) of maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a second communication device (A), said first device (A) comprises a storage medium and is adapted for storing on said storage medium configuration descriptions being uniquely identified by a configuration identifier (C#), the method
5 comprises the steps of:
 - receiving (701) from the second device A information comprising a configuration identifier (C#) uniquely identifying the configuration of the second device (A),
 - checking (703) whether the configuration description identified by the received configuration identifier (C#) is already stored on the storage medium,
 - 10 - if said configuration description is already stored on the storage medium, setting (705) the configuration description corresponding to the received configuration identifier (C#) as the active configuration description of the second device (A),
 - if said configuration description identified by the configuration identifier (C#) is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving (707) the configuration
 - 15 description from said second device (A), storing said configuration description together with said configuration identifier (C#) on said storage medium and setting (709) the configuration corresponding to the received configuration identifier (C#) as the active configuration description of the second device (A).
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- 20 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the unique configuration identifier (C#) comprises an identification of the second device (A).
 3. A method according to claim 1-2, wherein the configuration description comprises an identification of the services offered by the second device (A).
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- 25 4. A method according to claim 1-3, wherein the configuration identifier (C#) is a device specific configuration number uniquely identifying the configuration of the device.

5. A method according to claim 1-4, wherein the configuration descriptions on the storage medium, which have not been accessed for the longest time period, are deleted from the storage medium.

5 6. A method according to claim 1-5, wherein the second device generates the configuration identifier (C#) by deriving it from the configuration description using fingerprinting.

10 7. A method according to claim 1-6, wherein the first device (B) is a control point in an UPnP network, and the second device (A) is an UPnP device being part of the UPnP network.

15 8. An apparatus for maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a second communication device, said apparatus comprises a storage medium and is adapted for storing on said storage medium configuration descriptions being uniquely identified by a configuration identifier, the apparatus comprises:

- means for receiving from the second device information comprising a configuration identifier uniquely identifying the configuration of the second device,
- means for checking whether the configuration description identified by the received configuration identifier is already stored on the storage medium,
- means for, if said configuration description identified by the configuration identifier is stored on the storage medium, setting the configuration description corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the second device,
- 25 - means for, if said configuration description identified by the configuration identifier is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving the configuration description from said second device, storing said configuration description together with said configuration identifier on said storage medium and setting the configuration corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the second device.
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9. An UPnP control point for maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a UPnP device, said control point comprises a storage medium and is adapted for storing

on said storage medium configuration descriptions being uniquely identified by a configuration identifier, the control point comprises:

- means for receiving from the second device information comprising a configuration identifier uniquely identifying the configuration of the UPnP device,
- 5 - means for checking whether the configuration description identified by the received configuration identifier is already stored on the storage medium,
- means for, if said configuration description identified by the configuration identifier is stored on the storage medium, setting the configuration description corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the UPnP device,
- 10 - means for, if said configuration description identified by the configuration identifier is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving the configuration description from said UPnP device, storing said configuration description together with said configuration identifier on said storage medium and setting the configuration corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the UPnP device.
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